



# Do something constructive with a home improvement loan

The Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) is still accepting applications for its Home Improvement Deferred Loan Program.

Since 1975, the HRA has loaned homeowners more than \$6.5 million to help maintain the condition of housing and neighborhoods in the city.

Loans of up to \$30,000 with no monthly payments are available to Bloomington homeowners. Repayment occurs when the home is sold, transferred or conveyed. Interest is a simple 5 percent per year for the first 10 years based on the original loan.

**Eligible repairs** include: replacement of roofs, electrical and plumbing systems; gutters, windows, doors, insulation, siding, soffits and fascia; exterior painting; and foundation, sidewalk or step repairs.

**Ineligible repairs** include: decorating; additions; finishing of basements; remodeling; and garage construction. Homeowner labor will no longer be permitted, due to federal lead paint regulations.

## Application guidelines

Homes built before 1978 will require a Lead Risk Assessment and all lead-contaminated surfaces must be addressed.

To apply for a Home Improvement Deferred Loan, you must have sufficient equity in your home to cover the amount of the loan.

Income guidelines apply. *See table.*

Persons in household	Maximum gross income
1	\$39,550
2	\$45,200
3	\$50,850
4	\$56,500
5	\$61,000
6	\$65,550
7	\$70,050
8 or more	\$74,600

## Deadline

Loan applications will be accepted at the HRA office in Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, until February 27. For more information or an application, call 952-563-8937.

# Ordinance changes

## Motorized scooters and skateboards restricted

The use of "recreational vehicles" that was already prohibited by State statute on streets, parks and sidewalks is now clearly defined in the City's ordinance. Amendments were made by the City Council last December.

Based on safety concerns, the amendments prohibit the use of motorized scooters and skateboards, go-

carts and mini bikes on Bloomington streets, parks and sidewalks. These vehicles can only be legally used on private property with the owner's permission.

Motorized scooters and skateboards meet the broad definition of a motor vehicle by State statute; however, they cannot be licensed for roadway use

because they lack power and safety features. New amendments also make most minor offenses petty misdemeanors that might result in a fine, instead of a more serious misdemeanor violation that could be a jail-able offense.

For information, call Lieutenant Paul McCullough at 952-563-8834.

## City ordinance regulates solicitors

In response to residents' concerns about unwanted solicitors and aggressive salespersons calling at their doors, the City Council has amended the section of its ordinance called "Hawkers, Peddlers and Transient Merchants." The amendments:

- Require solicitors to carry a City-issued license and identification card when operating.
- Define the rights of residents to exclude anyone soliciting door-to-door from their homes.
- Require that all door-to-door solicitors must not operate between 8 p.m. and 9 a.m., enter a property with

a posted "No Solicitation" or similar sign or use aggressive sales techniques.

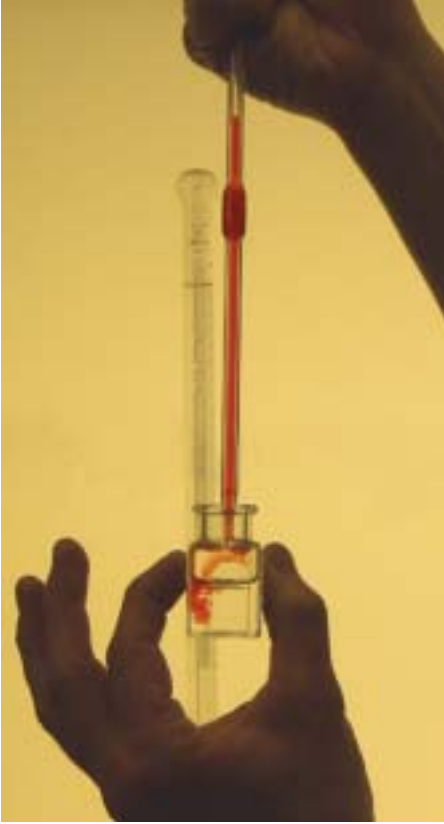
- Do not regulate the exchange of ideas, where the person simply wishes to speak with the occupant and is not asking for any donation, contribution or compensation.

During the hearing, representatives of some non-profit groups expressed concerns that the ordinance changes would not impact their fundraising sales. The ordinance exempts non-profit, religious, political and educational organizations from licensing; however, they must abide by operation hours and have identification with them that

allows a resident or City staff to verify the group's tax-exempt status.

Examples of acceptable identification include an identification card issued by the organization, a business card, or the name of the organization printed on the goods offered for sale, order sheets, sales receipts or invoices. These provisions should allow sales of Girl Scout cookies, Boy Scout holiday decorations and school fundraisers to proceed in the way they have in past years.

For information, call the City Clerk's Office at 952-563-4923 or visit [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword "solicitor."



# City receives water fluoridation quality award

Bloomington Utilities captured the 2002 Water Fluoridation Quality Award by the Minnesota Department of Health and Department of Human Services for its commitment in providing fluoridated drinking water.

## A great achievement

Fluoridation of drinking water has been a major factor in the decline of tooth decay. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recognized it as one of the 10 greatest public health achievements in the 20th century.

## Dedicated efforts

CDC National Fluoridation Engineer David Apanian said of Bloomington Utilities, "Your dedicated efforts have improved oral health for your family, neighbors, businesses and community. Thank you for your part in providing this wonderful public health measure to your Bloomington neighbors and friends."

# Safe food is a team effort Industry members collaborate to keep food safe

When you go out to eat in Bloomington, rest assured someone has your safety in mind. Food safety is a team effort and, in November, a recognition luncheon was held to honor members of the Food Safety Collaborative Task Force and the Food Safety Award Program recipients and nominees from the past two years.

The Food Safety Collaborative Task Force is made up of Environmental Health staff and members of the

food industry in Bloomington and Richfield. Working together, they address food safety issues in our community, increase communication, and expand food manager and worker safety training programs.

For the past two years, the Advisory Board of Health has joined with Diamond Service Awards to sponsor the Food Safety Award Program to honor those who provide food safely. Award categories include restaurants, hotels,

grocery stores, fast food restaurants and other establishments where food is prepared and served in Bloomington.

If you are a member of the food industry and would like to join the Food Safety Collaborative, meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m. at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. For more information, call Petrona Lee at 952-563-8970.